



ELECTION NEWS

A special informational bulletin
on the implementation of
Michigan election law.

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

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In This Issue ...

- **Handling Extended FPCA Absent Voter Ballot Requests: Important Clarification**
- **Obtaining Updated Mailing Addresses for Military Voters**
- **New Election Mail Postal Tag Introduced by USPS**
- **Election Inspector Appointment Notification Requirement: A Reminder**
- **Election Resources Available on Department's Website**
- **Have a Questions or Need Assistance?**

Handling Extended FPCA Absent Voter Ballot Requests: Important Clarification

As previously noted, an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas civilian voter who submitted a Federal Post Card Application form (FPCA) for a federal election conducted in 2006 is automatically eligible to receive an absent voter ballot for the January 15, 2008 presidential primary. This means that all valid FPCA forms which you received anytime after the November 2, 2004 general election must be honored for the January 15, 2008 presidential primary. This timeframe is tied to the fact that an FPCA form must be honored for every federal election which is conducted “through the next 2 regularly scheduled general elections for federal office.”

At this date, all absent military voters and overseas civilian voters who are automatically eligible to receive an absent voter ballot for the January 15, 2008 presidential primary should have been mailed or emailed information on the ballot type selection requirement associated with the presidential primary.

Special Ballot Issuance Procedure for Voters Outside U.S.: A Reminder

If a military voter or civilian voter outside of the territorial limits of the United States who is automatically eligible to receive an absent voter ballot for the presidential primary does not submit a ballot type selection by today’s date (Wednesday, December 12, 2007), immediately

Send the voter another ballot type selection form and both the Republican Party presidential primary ballot and the Democratic Party presidential primary ballot. In no event may this mailing be made any later than Friday, December 14, 2007. (It merits note that all voters with APO and FPO addresses should be viewed as a voter outside of the territorial limits of the United States for purposes of this special ballot issuance procedure.)

If your jurisdiction is conducting a special election in conjunction with the presidential primary, also send the voter the “no party declaration” special election ballot. Enclose a letter and a large notice with the ballots which explain 1) that the voter can vote and return one of the ballots and 2) that the ballot type selection form must be appropriately marked and returned with the ballot. Complete instructions for handling this procedure were provided in *Election News*, Issue No. 54. A sample letter and notice were also provided with the newsletter.

It is emphasized that the special procedure detailed above extends to military voters and civilian voters outside the territorial limits of the United States only; it does not extend to military voters or civilian voters inside the United States. An absent voter ballot for the presidential primary cannot be sent to a uniformed services voter inside the United States or a civilian voter inside the United States unless and until the voter submits a completed ballot type selection form.

Obtaining Updated Mailing Addresses for Military Voters

Updated mailing addresses for military voters can be obtained by contacting the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) office in Washington, D.C. Seeking such information is essential anytime there is a question over a military voter’s current address or in any instance where an absent voter ballot mailed to a military voter is returned as “undeliverable.” There are two ways to seek such assistance:

- Fax the military voter’s name, birth date, Social Security Number (if available) and any addressing information on file for the voter to the FVAP office. Fax number: (703) 696-1352.
- Call the FVAP office and ask to speak to a representative. Toll free number: (800) 438-8683.

New Election Mail Postal Tag Introduced by USPS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has introduced a new tag that can be used by election officials to identify election mail. The tag (Tag 191) is available to identify both domestic and overseas election mail prepared at the First-Class Mail® or Standard Mail® rates.

Tag 191 has a distinctive lime green color that displays the Official Election Mail logo and the words “Ballots Only.” The tag may be used for official election mail addressed for domestic or international delivery that is prepared in trays or sacks. Although use of the tag is not required, the Postal Service™ recommends that election officials use the tag to provide greater visibility to election mail during handling and distribution by the Postal Service.

According to USPS representatives, the easiest way for you to obtain a supply of the new tag would be to ask your local Postmaster, Mailpiece Design Analyst (MDA), business mail entry unit (BMEU) contact or whomever the person is that you deal with at your local Post Office to order a supply for you.

Additional information on designing or preparing election mail is available at
<http://www.usps.com/electionmail/>

Election Inspector Appointment Notification Requirement: A Reminder

No later than two business days following the appointment of election inspectors for the upcoming January 15, 2008 presidential primary, the city or township election commission is required to notify the county chair of each major political party of the “names and political party affiliations of appointed election inspectors and the precincts to which those inspectors were appointed.” The notification must be made by “certified mail, personal service, or electronic transmission capable of determining date of receipt.” (See Michigan election law, MCL 168.674(2).)

Election Resources Available on Department’s Website

A wide variety of election related information and materials can be accessed through the Department’s website <www.michigan.gov/sos>. To locate, click on “Elections in Michigan”; on the Elections in Michigan page, click on “Information for Election Administrators.” The information and materials currently available on the website include the following:

- Michigan election law.
- January 15, 2008 presidential primary calendar.
- Voter information poster for January 15, 2008 presidential primary.

- May 6, 2008 election date calendar.
- 2008 August/November election dates.
- Provisional balloting implementation materials.
- Michigan voter identification requirement implementation materials.
- AutoMARK implementation materials.

Have a Question or Need Assistance?

If you have a question or need assistance with your election related duties, please do not hesitate to contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. We will be happy to assist in any way possible!

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